Review Committee of ICHR

1986. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of the Review Committee to look into the affairs of the Indian Council of Historic Research;

(b) whether the Review Committee has submitted its report;

(c) the major findings and recommendations thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the report has not been made public;

(e) whether the findings have been forwarded to ICHR for implementation; and

(f) if so, the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken by ICHR thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The terms of reference of the one-man Review Committee appointed to look into the functioning and affairs of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), were as under:—

(i) review the administrative and financial functioning of the Council in relation to aims and objectives as laid down in its Memorandum of Association (MoA)/Rules;

(ii) probe into non-publication/stoppage of volumes of 'Towards the Freedom Project';

(iii) probe into non-submission of research work by scholars, who were given fellowship by the Council during 1995-96 to 2000-01, as highlighted in the Report of the C&AG 2002-03;

(iv) probe into complaints/issues which are pending or could be received or referred by the Ministry about the functioning of the Council;

(v) consult eminent historians/academicians on any matter under review, if need be; and

(vi) make such recommendations and suggest remedial measures as are necessary to improve functioning of the Council and ensure it autonomy.

(b) and (c) The final report was submitted to the Government on the 14th July, 2005. The major findings and recommendations of the Committee are as under:—

(i) On the 'Towards Freedom' Project, the Committee has observed that attempts, including stoppage of funding and interruption in

publication of volumes under the Project were made to scuttle the project. The Committee has recommended for completion of the project within 24 months and constitution of Editorial Board with appointment of eminent historian as General Editor. The Committee further recommended for streamlining of the processing and publication procedure and suggested that the Government should take a view regarding the present Council, including its Chairman.

(ii) The Committee, on the issue of the 'non-submission of research work by scholars', has observed that there were irregularities in award of Senior Research Fellowship and National Fellowship and that proper representation of different regions of the country, SCs/ STs, women and minorities was not given. The Committee recommended for a Standing Search Committee to award National Fellowships, institution of a system of nomination to Senior Research Fellowships and computerization of fellowship and travel grant programmes. The Committee further recommended for appropriate remedial measures and recovery of fellowship grant from defaulters.

(iii) The Committee also observed that there was a phenomenal increase in the spending on seminar grants, and a biased funding methodology and wrongful funding for non-academic seminar. The Committee recommended for restoring pre-eminence position of the Indian Historical Congress,and funding of seminars on uncovered subjects and new areas of historical research.

(iv) The Committee noted that special projects were sanctioned without following the set procedures, and that the money spent on them was a total waste. The Committee cited this as an instance of distributing favour and patronage to the chosen ones. The Committee in its recommendations, suggested that no member or office bearer or anyone associated with the management of the ICHR should be given any project or fellowship, with personal financial benefit, during his tenure ship. The Committee further recommended that no special research project should be approved without prior evaluation, and that research materials as well as source materials of the projects are to be preserved in the Council.

(v) On the administrative functioning of the ICHR, the Committee observed that the ICHR suffered as and when the Government have changed in the Centre. The Committee has reported certain instances of irregularities in awarding job work, improper

maintenance of library and several instances of financial impropriety and infraction of General Financial Rules of the Government. The Committee also expressed concern over the fall in the levels of quality and academic values of the ICHR journals. The Committee, while recommending measures for bringing about improvement in the Council's functioning has emphasised upon action by the new Council for restoration of the past glory of the Council. The other recommendations included appointment of members nominated by the Indian Historical Congress and the Asiatic Societies in Kolkata and Mumbai on to the Council, remedial measures for improving the quality of its journals, and their timely publication, computerization and upgradaton of library, creation of Library Committee and setting up of Documentation Centre, opening of new regional centres for Northern, Eastern and Western regions and reduction in the establishment cost. The Committee has also advised for an internal audit of the financial dealings the period from 1998-99 to 2004-05.

(d) to (f) The findings as well as the recommendations made by the Review Committee in the interim and final reports have been accepted by the Ministry. The Council has already initiated action to implement the recommendations made in the interim reports submitted by the Committee earlier on the "non-publication/stoppage of volumes of 'Towards Freedom' Project" and on the issue of "non-submission of research work by scholars". The final report has been sent to the ICHR for placing them before the Council for taking a view in the matter and for implementation of the recommendations. The ICHR has proposed to place the final report before the Council for taking necessary steps in the matter.

Regularisation of Anganwadi Workers

1987. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment are aware of the fact that the anganwadi workers (social workers or voluntary workers) are harassed and overworked a lot;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that they are asked carry out every Government or semi-Government tasks, and are denied the benefits of a regular Government employee;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to regularise their services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Integrated Child